THE DICKENSIAN

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and Monthly Record of the Dickens Fellowship

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WHEN FOUND—

THE Dickens Fellowship entered its fifth year of existence last month, having been inaugurated on 6 October, 1902. On more than one occasion the history of its origin and formation has been told in an after-dinner speech, but had never been the subject of an article until Mr. J. W. T. Ley, its present Honorary Secretary, was invited to deal with it in such a way for the *Manchester City News*. Those who are interested in learning how the largest and most influential society of its kind had its being will find all the details set out in the above-named paper of 6 October last, under the heading of "The Dickens Conference."

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Special interest will centre in the two contributions of Dickens's to the pages of *Household Words* which are reprinted in the present number, for the reason that they are identified for the first time as having been written by him. Mr. Booley is a character that appears more than once in the pages of Dickens's famous paper, and his impressions of the Lord Mayor's show are appropriately timely this month. Although Dickens gave evidence frequently of being a poet in prose, it cannot be truly said he exhibited great power when attempting the metrical form. The poem which will be found on another page will, however, interest all lovers of his work nevertheless.

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An interesting correspondence appeared in the London *Evening News* recently, readers being asked to name their favourite novels. The correspondence commenced on 17 September and lasted until 5 October, and was not only exceedingly interesting, but at times exceedingly amusing. *Pickwick* led the way at first, with *David Copperfield* and *A Tale of Two Cities* in the first six. Suddenly all three dropped, and Dickens, Scott, Thackeray, George Eliot, Jane Austen—all were unrepresented! Then *Copperfield* reappeared, and steadily worked its way into second place. For several days after that Miss Marie Corelli's *Thelma* held first place, with *Copperfield* a good second, and even when the list was extended to twelve no other of Dickens's novels managed to creep in!

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Three days before the close *Copperfield* tied with *Thelma*. Next day he was well ahead, and, sustaining his lead, he won by more than 100 votes, whilst in the last lap *Westward Ho!* came up with a rush, and beat *Thelma* for second place by a dozen votes. But still *Pickwick* was not placed. The final order was as follows: (1) *David Copperfield;* (2) *Westward Ho!;* (3) *Thelma;* (4) *The Cloister and the Hearth;* (5) *Lorna Doone;* (6) *The Sowers;* (7) *Dead Man's Rock;*

(8) *Rienzi;* (9) *It's Never Too Late to Mend;* (10) *Captains Courageous;* (11) *Treasure Island;* (12) *The Iron Pirate.* This list surely makes curious reading, and it is probable that few will regard it as anything like representative of general opinion. At any rate, one certainly has some doubts as to whether our librarians as a whole would confirm it. *East Lynne* seems to have been completely overlooked!

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There is some ground for believing that *Pickwick* enjoys a greater popularity than, say, *The Sowers*, whilst one cannot help thinking that one or two of Scott's books—possibly *Ivanhoe* or *The Talisman*—are more widely read than *Dead Man's Rock* or *Rienzi*. From the letters received the Editor of the *Evening News* compiled another interesting list—namely, of the six most popular novelists, and the final order was: (1) Dickens; (2) Lytton; (3) Marie Corelli; (4) Charles Kingsley; (5) H. Seton Merriman; (6) Max Pemberton. Here, again, is a curiosity. Is Merriman really more popular than Scott? And if we are dealing only with *popularity*, where, oh where, is Hall Caine?

* * *

Of the many phrases of Dickens which have become a part of our language, perhaps the most familiar is that which furnished the heading to these notes. The originator of it will be seen on the stage once again, on the occasion of the performance of the *House of Dombey*, which Mrs. Teignmouth Shore and Mr. Walter Dexter have dramatized for the Dickens Fellowship Dramatic Club. It will take place at the Cripplegate Theatre, London, E.C., on Saturday evening next, the 3rd inst. Those who think of going should not fail to write or wire at once for tickets to Mr. Walter Dexter, the Hon. Sec., at 40 Ommaney Road, New Cross, S.E., as there will only be a few seats left for sale on the night. By the way, we hear that arrangements are in hand for a special charity performance by the Club at a large London theatre just before Christmas, and we hear, too, it is to be influentially supported.

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The first two volumes of the "National Edition" of the works of Dickens were published last month, and really exceed the promise of the publishers that it would be the finest edition ever produced. It is superb in every way. Paper, type, binding, and illustrations are such as will satisfy the tastes of the keenest bibliophile. As we stated in a recent number, the edition will contain everything Dickens wrote which can be identified, together with his "Life" and letters. Only 750 copies have been printed, and so well have they been taken up before publication that there is no doubt the edition will soon be at a premium.

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The "Cheeryble" Grants, being the life story of William and Daniel Grant, the prototypes of the "Brothers Cheeryble" of *Nicholas Nickleby*, is the title of a book announced for immediate publication by Messrs. Sherratt and Hughes, Manchester. The author, Rev. W. Hume Elliot, of Ramsbottom, has spent many years in preparing this biographical work, which is sure to be full of interest to Dickensians. The volume will be dedicated to the Dickens Fellowship. Mr. Elliot is a member of the Manchester Branch. THE EDITOR.

MR. BOOLEY'S VIEW OF THE LAST LORD MAYOR'S SHOW *

By CHARLES DICKENS

MR. BOOLEY having been much excited by the accounts in the newspapers, informing the public that the eminent Mr. Batty, of Astley's Amphitheatre, Westminster Bridge Road, Lambeth, would invent, arrange, and marshal the Procession on Lord Mayor's Day, took occasion to announce to the Social Oysters that he intended to be present at that great national spectacle. Mr. Booley remarked that into whatever regions he extended his travels, and however wide the range of his experience became, he still found, on repairing to Astley's Amphitheatre, that he had much to learn. For, he always observed within those walls, some extraordinary costume or curious weapon, or some apparently unaccountable manners and customs, which he had previously associated with no nation upon earth. Thus, Mr. Booley said, he had acquired a knowledge of Tartar Tribes, and also of Wild Indians, and Chinese, which had greatly enlightened him as to the habits of those singular races of men, in whom he observed, as peculiarities common to the whole, that they were always hoarse; that they took equestrian exercise in a most irrational manner, riding up staircases and precipices without the least necessity; that it was impossible for them to dance, on any joyful occasion, without keeping time with their forefingers, erect in the neighbourhood of their ears; and that whenever their castles were on fire (a calamity to which they were particularly subject) numbers of them immediately tumbled down dead, without receiving any wound or blow, while others, previously distinguished in war, fell an easy prey to the comic coward of the opposite faction, who was usually armed with a strange instrument resembling an enormous, supple cigar.

For such reasons alone, Mr. Booley took a lively interest in the preliminary announcements of the last Lord Mayor's Show; but, when he understood, besides, that the Show was to be an Allegory, devised by the ingenious Mr. Batty, in conjunction with the Lord Mayor, as a kind of practical riddle for all beholders to make guesses at, he hired a window in the most eligible part of the line of march, resolved to devote himself to the discovery of its meaning.

The result of Mr. Booley's meditation on the Allegory which passed before his eyes on the ninth of the present month, was given to the Social Oysters, in the form of a report, emanating directly and personally from himself, their President. We have been favoured with a copy of the document, and also with permission to make it public; a permission of which we now proceed to avail ourselves. Those who have any acquaintance with Mr. Booley, will be prepared to learn that the real intent and meaning of the Allegory has been entirely missed, except by his sagacious and original mind. We need scarcely observe that its obviousness and simplicity must not be allowed to detract from the merit either of Mr. Booley or of Mr. Batty, or of the Lord Mayor. It is in the essence of these things that they *should* be obvious and simple, when the clue is once found.

* Identified and reprinted from *Household Words*, 30 Nov., 1850, for the first time.

"At an early hour of the morning," says Mr. Booley,—"for I observe, in the newspapers, that when any public spectacle takes place, it always begins to take place at an early hour of the morning—I stationed myself at the window which had been engaged for me. I will not attempt to describe my feelings on looking down Cheapside. I am conscious of having thought of Whittington and his cat, and of Hogarth's idle and industrious apprentice—also of the weather, which was extremely fine.

"When the procession began, with the Tallow Chandlers' Company, succeeded by the Under Beadle of the Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers, walking alone, as a Being so removed and awful should, tears of solemn pleasure rose to my eyes; but, I am not aware that I then suspected any latent meaning in particular. Even when the 'Beadle of the Tallow Chandlers' Company in his gown,' caused the vast assemblage to hold its breath, and sent a thrill through all the multitude, I believe I only regarded him as the eminent Beadle in question, and not as a symbol. The appearance of 'The Captain and Lieutenant of the Band of Pensioners,' and also of a Band of Pensioners, each carrying a Javelin and Shield, struck me (though the band was by no means numerous enough) as a happy idea, emblematic of those bulwarks of our constitution, the Pension-List, Places, and Sinecures; but, it was not until 'two pages bearing flambeaux filled with burning incense,' preceded a young lady 'attired in a white satin robe and mounted on a white palfrey,' that the joint idea of Mr. Batty and the Lord Mayor burst upon me. I will not expatiate on the pleasure with which I found my discovery confirmed by every succeeding object. I will endeavour to state the idea to you in a tranquil manner, and to do justice to Mr. Batty and the Lord Mayor.

"The Tallow Chandlers' Company," Mr. Booley proceeds, "with their Under Beadle and Beadle, I found to be the representatives of noxious trades and unwholesome smells; at present very rife within the City of London, but shortly to disappear before the penitent exertions of the Corporation. The Band of Pensioners, with javelins and shields, were clearly the persons interested in the maintenance of such nuisances, though powerless either for attack or defence, and only following those sources of disease and death into oblivion. The burning incense, I need not observe, was used to purify and disinfect the foul air before the appearance of the Goddess Hygeia (called Peace in the programme, that the Allegory might not be too obvious), who was very properly represented with a spotless dress, and riding on a spotless palfrey. It was a happy part of this thoughtful fancy, that the civic authorities, and the Aldermen in their carriages, had gone before; Mr. Batty and the Lord Mayor being sensible that until those distinguished functionaries had moved on a little, and been got out of the way, the appearance of the Goddess of Health could not possibly be expected.

"The Goddess, that distinguished stranger," Mr. Booley goes on to say, "having been received by the City of London with loud acclamations, and having been most eagerly and enthusiastically welcomed by the multitudes, who were to be seen squeezed into courts, byeways, and cellars, gave place to 'The Horse of Europe'; in which generous quadruped I perceived a pledge and promise on the part of the Corporation, that filled me with the liveliest emotions. For, not to

dwell upon the significant fact that the body, which it is my welcome function to commend so highly, paraded, on this solemn occasion, a Horse, and not a Donkey—which is in itself worthy of observation: the City having, very frequently heretofore, made a surprising show of Donkeys when the Public Health has been under discussion—I had only to refer to Buffon, to strengthen my sense of the importance of this beautiful symbol. 'Horses,' says he, 'are gentle, and their tempers social; they seldom show their ardour and strength by any other sign than emulation. They endeavour to be foremost in the course.' And again, 'They renounce their very being for the service of man.' And again, 'Their manners almost wholly depend on their education.' And again, 'A horse naturally morose, gloomy, or stubborn, produces foals of the same disposition; and as the defects of confirmation, as well as the vices of the humours, perpetuate with still more certainty than the natural qualities, great care should be taken to exclude from the stud all deformed, vicious, glandered, broken-winded, or mad horses.' No animal could have better illustrated the united meaning of Mr. Batty and the Lord Mayor. The City pledged itself by that token to show its ardour and strength by emulation in all efforts for the public good, and to abandon all other considerations to the service of man. Further, it recognized the great truth, that the manners of a people depend upon their education; and that gloomy, morose, or otherwise ill-conditioned parents will perpetuate an ill-conditioned and constantly degenerating race; irksome to itself and dangerous to all. Hence, it promised to extend, by all possible means, among the poor, the blessings of light, air, cleanliness, and instruction; and no longer to enforce filth, squalor, ill health, and ignorance, upon thousands of God's creatures. I was particularly struck," Mr. Booley remarks, "by this beautiful part of the Allegory, and shall ever regard Mr. Batty and the Lord Mayor with a feeling of personal affection.

"The Horse of Europe was followed by the Camel of Asia. And difficult, indeed, it would have been," says Mr. Booley, "to have presented, next in order, any animal more felicitously carrying out the general idea. For, the impossibility of people being healthy and clean without a good and cheap supply of water, must be as obvious to the meanest capacity, as even the dearness, bad quality, and insufficient quantity, of the present supply of water in London. I therefore consider that anything happier than the exhibition at this point of an animal who is supplied with a subtle inward mechanism for storing this first necessary of life—who is furnished, as I may say, with an inexpensive Water Works of its own—was one of the most agreeable and pointed illustrations ever presented to a populace. I consider it a stroke of genius, and beg thus publicly to tender the poor tribute of my warmest admiration to Mr. Batty and the Lord Mayor.

"After the Camel of Asia, came the Elephant of Africa. I found this idea, likewise, very pleasant. The exquisite scent possessed by the elephant rendered it out of the question that he could have been produced at an earlier stage of the Procession, or the Tallow Chandlers, with their Under Beadles, Beadles, and Band of Pensioners, might have roused him to a state of fury. Therefore, the Civic Dignitaries and Aldermen (whose noses are not keen) immediately followed that ill-savoured Company, and the Elephant was reserved until now.

"His capacity of intellectual development under proper training, his strength and docility, his industry, his many noble qualities, his patience and attachment under gentle treatment, and his blind resentment when provoked too far by ill-usage, rendered him, besides, a touching symbol of the great English people; and this idea was still further expressed by his carrying trophies on his back, expressive of their enterprise and valor. In parading an animal so well known for its aversion to carrion, and its liking for clean provender, the City of London, pleasantly but pointedly, avowed its determination to seek out and confiscate all improper human food exposed for sale within its liberties, and particularly to look, with a searching eye, into the knackers' yards, and the sausage trade. I almost fancied," Mr. Booley proceeds, "that the sagacious elephant knew his part in the Allegory, and was conscious of the whole Castle of meaning on his back, as he proceeded gravely on, surveying the crowd with his small, but highly intelligent eye.

"The two negroes by whom he was led," Mr. Booley goes on to remark, "rather perplexed me. Can it be, that they had any reference to certain estimable, but pig-headed members of the Civic Parliament, who learn no wisdom from experience and instruction; and in humorous reference to whom, Mr. Batty and the Lord Mayor suggested the impossibility of ever washing the Blackamoor white?

"But now," he adds, "appeared what I cannot but consider the crowning feature of the allegory: in perfect harmony and keeping with the rest, and pointing directly at the removal of an absurd, a monstrous, and cruel nuisance. I allude to the 'Two Deer of America,' whose horns I no sooner observed advancing along Cheapside, than I immediately felt that an allusion was intended to Smithfield Market. The little play upon words, in which it was candidly admitted that that nuisance was Two Dear to the Corporation generally, might have struck me, perhaps, as rather too obvious, if I had been disposed to be hypercritical; but, the introduction of horned beasts among the crowd was in itself an Allegory, so pointed and yet so ingenious and complete, that I think I was never better pleased in my life. On further reflection, I discovered a still more profound and delicate meaning in the exhibition of these animals. Their association with the chase, typified the constant flight and pursuit going on all over the City, and, indeed, all over the Metropolis, on market-days; while their easy connection in the beholder's mind with those periods of English history when it was a far greater crime to kill a stag than to kill a man, reflected with just severity on the obsolete inhumanity and rapacity of the Corporation that cared for the lives and limbs, neither of beasts nor men, in the tenacity of its clutch at an old, pestilential, worn-out abuse.

"This," says Mr. Booley, in conclusion, "is the Allegory that was presented to the people last Lord Mayor's Day, and which I have now had the satisfaction of explaining to the Social Oysters. I deem it highly honourable to the new Lord Mayor, whom I cordially wish a prosperous and happy reign; together with a vigorous determination to do his utmost to carry out the needful reforms, and remedy the crying evils, so ably glanced at, by himself, on this auspicious occasion. As I dined in the Guildhall after the show, I had the honour of giving utterance to these wishes (but not within his hearing) after dinner;

when, remembering this Allegory, I divined a new meaning in the Loving Cup, and was charmed to find the first City in the universe bravely devoting its charter and liberties to the welfare of the community, and not poorly sheltering itself behind them as an immunity from the plainest human responsibilities. I had the honour and pleasure of drinking his lordship's health in a bumper of very excellent wine; and I should have been happy to have drunk to Mr. Batty too, if his health had been proposed, which it was not."

GOSWELL STREET

BY PERCY FITZGERALD, M.A., F.S.A.

THERE are few street-names in London which excite such feelings as this, owing to its having been the residence of the excellent Mr. Pickwick, or perhaps owing to the florid eloquence of the Serjeant, who, as it were, visualized it for us in his wonderful speech. No one thinks of Goswell Street in any other connexion. It has

GOSWELL ROAD

From photo by Catherine W. B. Ward

become Goswell Road; but that makes no difference to us. We always wonder why the eminent man picked out this singular locality. He was a well-to-do retired merchant, if not wealthy; and one would have expected to find him in one of the genteeler streets adjoining Russell or Bedford Squares, just as one might equally wonder why Mr. Pickwick always put up at that rather second-rate inn, the "George and Vulture," more a tavern than an inn. The reason for the selection probably was the excellent air and high ground. An easy walk, and he was all but in the open country.

Goswell Road on the whole has an air of dingy squalor and decay. Its houses and shops have a mean and shabby look. Yet one must note what a fine, long, and spacious thoroughfare it must have been in its palmy days. There are two portions of Goswell Road, each distinct: the upper that leads to the "Angel"; the other, which commences about half-way down, has more pretension. If we study it we shall see how wide and dignified it is, and how some eighty years ago lodgings here would have been quite suited to an elderly "bachelor of position." From here on both sides, other wide streets lead off to Northampton Square and others, with vistas of trees and open country beyond, as it was then. And very quaint old-fashioned things are these squares—with an air of snug comfort.

It is easy to see that Boz himself felt something of this impression of largeness and spacious view, for he describes his hero on one early morning, throwing open his bedroom window and looking up and down the street, "far as the eye could reach," "without one effort to penetrate to the hidden countries which on every side surround it."

In the upper portion of this "not more populous than popular street"—another tribute—the houses are only two stories high, but in the lower and wider portion they are three. The lodger had the second-floor bedroom, the drawing-room, with the parlour—practically the whole house; Mrs. Bardell, the top story. A second lodger had the back parlour for sleeping purposes, and was presumably out during the day. Phiz has left us an accurate sketch of the drawing-room and its furniture.

I confess the street and its whole neighbourhood is attractive from its air of thorough old fashion and quaintness, for it is almost the only surviving district which has not been levelled, or rebuilt, or generally pulled to pieces. Close by is the "New River," with its "Head"; and a little way to the back, the old Sadler's Wells Theatre, now not very much altered. But our venerated Samuel was not a playgoer. He was an antiquarian though, and would have relished the old Canonbury Tower, which still happily stands.

On the whole we have a sort of affection for Goswell Street (or road), and, as pilgrims go to Lichfield and call up the older Samuel's image, as we gaze on his house, so, with no less reverence, we call up the second old Samuel, who is just as real and just as living and just as dear to us all.

WHY WE READ DICKENS

THERE is a great deal of difference between the eager man who wants to read a book and the tired man who wants a book to read. . . . Men read a Dickens story six times because they knew it so well. If a man can read a Le Queux story six times it is only because he can forget it six times. In short, the Dickens novel was popular, not because it was an unreal world, but because it was a real world; a world in which the soul could live. The modern "shocker" at its very best is an interlude in life. But in the days when Dickens's work was coming out in serial people talked as if real life were itself the interlude between one issue of *Pickwick* and another. G. K. CHESTERTON.

THOMAS GRIFFITHS WAINEWRIGHT
A NOTABLE DICKENS MODEL

By WILLOUGHBY MATCHETT

I

IT was in the year 1838 or 1839 that Charles Dickens was brought face to face in a somewhat dramatic manner with a man who was afterwards to serve him as a model for more than one character of a villainous order. The meeting would seem to have made a powerful and abiding impression on the young author, and to have had more bearing on his books than has yet been recognized. It would seem to have emphasized in his mind the latent possibilities for evil in the human soul, and to have given a special direction of his thoughts towards the villainies of mankind as a basis for stories.

It occurred while he was going over Newgate, in the company of Forster, Macready, and Hablôt Browne. In coming to the prisoners under remand, there was a startling, tragic cry of "My God! there's Wainewright!" Says Forster: "In the shabby-genteel creature with sandy disordered hair and dirty moustache, who turned quickly round with a defiant stare at our entrance, looking at once mean and fierce, and quite capable of the cowardly murders he had committed, Macready had been horrified to recognize a man familiarly known to him in former years, and at whose table he had dined."

It was not until more than twenty years later that Dickens was to draw a full portrait of this man; but that he kept him in mind all the time and used his image, now and again, as a sort of lay-figure of villainy by which to measure the actions of his very worst characters, I, for one, have very little doubt. Wainewright was no mere melodramatic villain, but one of the master-miscreants of the century—perhaps the supreme example of the "intuitive criminal" in his most highly developed state; and this chance meeting with him must have gone far to intensify a leaning which the novelist always had—in spite of his humour—towards tales of horror and crime. Yet so broad are the canvases of Dickens, such a variety of human life is depicted on them, that it is only natural for the criminal side of it to be frequently portrayed; but that crime should loom in his mind as such a grim, overshadowing, stern reality of life that he was never, after *Pickwick*, wholly to disassociate his novels from it, never to revert to a long story of lighter kind, is a matter perhaps for some slight regret. That he preserved this melodramatic bent in shaping the framework of novel after novel is indirect testimony to the effect that his undoubted turn for jail hunting, and this meeting with Wainewright in particular, had upon him.

Thomas Griffiths Wainewright, to give him his full name, was born in 1794. His rich grandfather, Dr. Griffiths, had been one of the best-known men of his time, a friend of Goldsmith and Wedgwood. With good forbears, much natural ability, an appearance of elegance, and expensive tastes that he never failed to gratify, young Wainewright doubtless considered himself quite "the heir of all the ages." With an insinuating address and would-be fascinating manners, he soon made the best literary and artistic society of the day his own. A short

term in the army lent him a useful military air; and he looked about him both on art and nature with the serene eye of a patron. He not only approved of Wordsworth's poetry, but affected to weep over it. He took to dabbling in the arts; first in painting, afterwards in art-criticism, doing occasional essays under the pseudonym of Janus Weathercock. He was a ready follower of a certain scented, kid-gloved cult of authorship that obtained at that time, and that strove to combine Dandyism with Literature. His essays are full of a volatile flippancy, frothy, flashy, and egotistical, and suggest to the fancy that, like his fingers, they were too heavily loaded with personal jewellery. However, they earned the approval of Charles Lamb, who pronounced them "capital"; and who really seems to have had an admiration for the sugary young Sybarite, once referring to him as the "kind, light-hearted Wainewright." It must be admitted that Wainewright was one of the first to develop the literary side of art, and was a precursor of Ruskin in his admiration for the paintings of Turner. But his *métier* was to cultivate life itself as an art, rather than the arts that seek to express it, and he aimed "to be somebody, rather than to do something." With tastes choice, cultured, exotic, he did not stint his desire to surround himself with beautiful objects. As one who wrote on him phrased it, he was "an amateur of beautiful things, and a dilettante of things delightful." But all this made for expense and extravagance; he was chronically hard up, and often at his wits' end for money. Under his veneer of dilettantism lay hidden strong criminal instincts; and to these, under the direction of his scheming brain, he gave free vent. He became "a forger of no mean or ordinary capabilities," and "a subtle and secret poisoner almost without rival in this or any age."

Indeed, he was such a thorough-paced villain that to the mind of Mr. Carew Hazlitt—whose introduction to his collected essays forms perhaps the best account of his life—the wickedness of the man blotted out all other qualities. Oscar Wilde, who published a study of the murderer's career in 1889, was probably near the mark when he said: "That he had a sincere love of art and nature seems to me quite certain. There is no essential incongruity between crime and culture."

It would be difficult perhaps to find a character more directly opposite, in many respects, to Wainewright's than that of Jonas Chuzzlewit. You never caught anybody speaking of the "kind, light-hearted Chuzzlewit." Not a bit of it. Perhaps though Jonas was less of a humbug than Janus. He didn't trouble to disguise the natural bent of his base, mean soul very much, but openly boasted that his father's blood was "liquid aggravation" to him. We may be sure the silky Wainewright made no such remark of his good, kind uncle, George Edward Griffiths, who had played the part of a father to him for many years (for he had lost his own in boyhood), and whose heir he was. Nevertheless Uncle George Edward's many years—he was an elderly man—annoyed his nephew, who no more approved of "flying in the face of the Bible" than did Jonas; so the young dandy thoughtfully and piously removed his uncle, just as, later, Jonas attempted to remove his father—*by poison*. After next trying his prentice hand on a superfluous mother-in-law (it was really fatal to be a relative of Wainewright's), he came to his most finished and artistic murder, which he

executed with the sure touch and facile ease of a master. The victim was Helen Abercromby, the elder of two young sisters-in-law, and Wainewright was sufficient business man to take the precaution of insuring her life first for no less a sum than £18,000. He said afterwards that he killed her because she had thick ankles—he was easily annoyed; but perhaps that was only his fun. This particularly healthy young woman died, poor thing, of a short, mysterious illness that started with wet feet and her being dosed with stimulants by her affectionate relative. Died in much agony, whilst he was taking his

HELEN FRANCES PHŒBE ABERCROMBY
Drawn by T. G. Wainewright

kind, light heart off to sketch upon the Thames. Needless to say that heart was inexpressibly shocked on his return. Sad, sad, sad, that such things should be! The world is a grave! But to come back to the genial Jonas. It is strange to find Jonas, after trying to polish his father off in the manner of Wainewright, is again shown as attempting to follow in that master's steps. Strange, when he first calls at the office of the Anglo-Bengalee, this sinister rogue is intent on insuring his young wife's life. Oh, fie, Jonas, a little originality if you please! So Dickens thought, and he threw this notion over and developed the rest of his villain's doings in another way. But that the crimes of Wainewright formed the basis of Jonas Chuzzlewit's character is pretty plain to the discerning eye.

(To be concluded

BLUNDERS OF DICKENS AND HIS ILLUSTRATORS

By ALEX. J. PHILIP

PROBABLY Dickens suffered more at the hands of his illustrators than any other of our great novelists. It is difficult to discover any adequate reason for this. The theory which has been advanced, that the engraver having to work on the reverse is responsible for the mistakes, I do not think tenable. It is more probable that the method in which Dickens, and not only he, but also his contemporaries, wrote was the cause.

There was no maypole in front of the inn at Chigwell; but that, in charity, may be due to author's licence.

There is no doubt that one of the most interesting errors is that occurring in the illustrations of *Barnaby Rudge*. Two of the plates in this, drawn by Browne, taken separately, present no incongruity; but when placed side by side it is evident at once that the artist has made use of as much licence as, or even more than, is allowed a poet. In both plates the central figure is Joe Willet, the innkeeper's son, after his return from the army, less one arm. The question is, however, which arm? In the first he is valiantly wielding a club, for which the right arm is almost essential; the left arm is therefore missing. But in the latter, and in another, he is engaged in the much more interesting and enjoyable occupation of making love to Dolly Varden, and here he is depicted with his left arm encircling the girl's waist. Something of the same sort occurred in *Dombey*, where we find Captain Cuttle's hook sometimes on one hand, sometimes on the other; but Dickens evidently intended it to be on the right hand when he tells us that the indomitable Captain unscrewed the hook and substituted a knife. Here Dickens might have followed the famous piece of advice, which has become a household word, and "made a note of it." Our illustration, that in which Tim Linkinwater expresses his appreciation of Nicholas, perhaps more than any other, shows the licence of the artist. Tim's chair is not tipped on the legs mentioned in the text, nor is he pointing at Nicholas with his pen. Nicholas appears to be recasting columns of figures, which is not in accordance with the text; if, as stated in the text, he is writing, then he is doing it with his left hand, as no pen is depicted in his right hand. Although some of the blame for these slips must attach to the artists, part of it is undoubtedly due to the author when it is remembered that some of the plates, particularly those of *Pickwick*, were executed before the instalment of the story to which they belong was written. When illustrating *Our Mutual Friend*, Mr. Marcus Stone found the story so indefinite on the part of Wegg's missing leg, that he was obliged to ask Dickens if he had made up his mind which leg Wegg had lost. "It's all right, please yourself," the author replied. There are, however, two slips which must not be forgotten. The one is that, now well known, where, in two instances, Phiz has drawn Peggotty's boat keel upwards, while the story is quite clear that the boat stood on an even keel. It has remained for Mr. Fred Barnard to draw the boat as it should be. The other is found in the *Battle of Life*, where Leech portrays Michael

Warden taking part in the elopement with Marion, an utterly incorrect reading of the text.

Another slip occurs in *Dombey and Son*. Here the artist has depicted Dr. Blimber's "young gentlemen" to the number of sixteen, without Paul, although in the text of the story we are told that he took ten pupils only at a time. And Uriah Heep, with the irreproachable Littimer, are shown, towards the termination of *David Copperfield*, in their ordinary clothes.

Either Dickens took a bold liberty with the shop in Dover Market Square, on the steps of which David Copperfield sat, hungry, ragged, and tired, and the one in which he bought the penny loaf with the fly-driver's gift; or the local topographers are at fault in the account they give of the demolition of one of them.

The inimitable *Pickwick Papers* show such a tremendous grasp of important detail that one can but wonder that the slips are so small and so far apart. No doubt the most important is the confusion with regard to the date of the story. Attention was directed to this by Reynolds in his *Pickwick Abroad*, which was one of the best of the numerous imitations of Pickwick and is sufficiently remarkable as a faithful continuation. It was published in 1839, two years after the appearance of Pickwick in volume form.

Mr. Pickwick is in his home at Dulwich preparing to leave for his Continental tour, and is reading from his notes:—

"Was a quarter of an hour too early for my breakfast, so took up the biography of myself and friends, and glanced cursorily over the notes which I have prepared for my editor, 'Boz.' Found that in 1827 I had made Mr. Jingle declare himself to have written a poem on the French Revolution, which only took place in 1830. Could not mean the First Revolution, as Mr. Jingle was present (according to my notes) at the one of which he wrote; and he was not born when the first began. Must think of this; there is a grievous error somewhere. Discovered another error. In the memoranda of a speech which I made on the night before my first sally-forth in search of adventures in 1827, I am represented to have said that 'Philanthropy was my *Swing!*' Now, the incendiary Swing—the fabled illuminator of all the haystacks in the kingdom—had not then acquired his name, nor was he known. Must correct this error also."

"Boz, writing some ten years after the event, seems to have got a little confused and uncertain as to the exact date of the trial. He first fixed the opening of the story in 1817; but on coming to the compromising incident in Goswell Street, which occurred only a few weeks later, he changed the year to 1827. Mr. Jingle's anachronism of the French Revolution of July suggested that the new date would not do. So 1830 was next adopted. But this did not end the matter, for in the 'errata' we are directed to change this date back again to 1827. And so it now stands. The trial therefore really took place April 1st, 1828."—*Fitzgerald.*

It is also strange that Mrs. Bardell was haled away to incarceration without being formally arrested, in fact without apparently any legal warrant at all. Again, at the Bath assembly, Mr. Bantam's "outfit" included a pliant ebony cane, with a heavy gold top—who ever heard

of a pliant ebony cane? Another curious incident, showing the confusion in the author's mind regarding the date of *Pickwick,* occurs in the use of a certain word. It occurs in Sam Weller's story of the sausage-maker's disappearance, when Mr. Pickwick asked if he had been "Burked." But Burke was not executed until 1829, two years later than the supposed date of the relation of the story.

This does not exhaust the list, of course, and several instances occur in which it might be argued that the immortal Boz had fallen into error, but which might with equal justice and probability be due to the freedom of the novelist, and an intentional exhibition of human weakness in his characters.

POETICAL TRIBUTES TO CHARLES DICKENS

XXIII

EPISTLE FROM FATHER PROUT

A RHYME! a rhyme! from a distant clime,—from the gulf of the Genoese:
O'er the rugged scalps of the Julian Alps, dear Boz! I send you these,
To light the *Wick* your candlestick holds up, or, should you list,
To usher in the yarn you spin concerning Oliver Twist.

Immense applause you've gained, oh, Boz! through continental Europe;
You'll make Pickwick œcumenick;* of fame you have a sure hope:
For here your books are found, gadzooks! in greater *luxe* than any
That have issued yet, hot-press'd or wet, from the types of GALIGNANI

But neither when you sport your pen, oh, potent mirth-compeller!
Winning our hearts "in monthly parts," can Pickwick or Sam Weller
Cause us to weep with pathos deep, or shake with laugh spasmodical,
As when you drain your copious vein for Bentley's periodical.

Folks all enjoy your Parish Boy,—so truly you depict him;
But I, alack! while thus you track your stinted Poor-laws victim,
Must think of some poor nearer home,—poor who, unheeded, perish,
By squires despoiled, by "patriots" gulled,—I mean the starving Irish.

Yet there's no dearth of Irish mirth, which, to a mind of feeling,
Seemeth to be the Helot's glee before the Spartan reeling;
Such gloomy thought o'ercometh not the glow of England's humour,
Thrice happy isle; long may the smile of genuine joy illume her!

Write on, young sage! still o'er the page pour forth the flood of fancy;
Wax still more droll, wave o'er the soul Wit's wand of necromancy.
Behold! e'en now around your brow th' immortal laurel thickens;
Yea, SWIFT or STERNE might gladly learn a thing or two from DICKENS.

A rhyme! a rhyme! from a distant clime,—a song from the sunny south!
A goodly theme, so Boz but deem the measure not uncouth.
Would, for thy sake, that "Prout" could make his bow in fashion finer,
"*Partant*" (from thee) "*pour la Syrie,*" for Greece and Asia Minor.

FATHER PROUT,

GENOA, 14 *December*, 1837. *Bentley's Miscellany* (January, 1838).

* ειδωλον της γης οικουμενης.

TOWNSHIP OF DICKENS
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, CANADA

IT may interest our readers to know that the Government of Ontario has done something towards immortalizing the name of Dickens, by giving it to a township in that province, in the vicinity of the Algonquin National Park, on the Canada Atlantic Branch of the Grand Trunk

HOME OF THE ONLY SETTLER IN DICKENS TOWNSHIP

Railway system. The township of Dickens comprises 44,509 acres, of which 6196 acres are water, the largest lake being Aylen, or Little Opeongo Lake, some six miles long and about three miles wide. The

PICKWICK ISLAND IN DICKENS TOWNSHIP

township was surveyed in 1894, and was named by the late Hon. A. S. Hardy, Commissioner of Crown Lands, upon the suggestion of Mr. E. S. Williamson, who was then acting as private secretary. Dickens Township has never been open for settlement, and there

is only one family living in it, whose house is shown in the illustration herewith.

Mr. Williamson, who is now secretary of the department, has naturally taken an interest in Dickens Township, and has secured an island in Aylen Lake, containing about two acres, which he has named "Pickwick Island." He recently visited the township and made the

AN ISLAND IN AYLEN LAKE IN DICKENS TOWNSHIP

photographs from which the accompanying illustrations are reproduced. Mr. Williamson is President of the Toronto Branch of the Dickens Fellowship—the largest branch in America, with a present membership of over two hundred. He suggests that one of the future conferences of the Society should take place on Pickwick Island, but says that while he will be glad to provide the site for the meeting, he does not wish to be understood as offering to pay the transportation of members thereto!

THE ORIGINAL MISS HAVISHAM

AN Australian paper remarks that "when Dickens wrote *Great Expectations*, and drew his pathetic pen-picture of Miss Havisham, the disappointed bride-that-was-to-be, sitting in her wedding-garments for the space of many long weary years, and until death called her hence, there were few readers who failed to pooh-pooh the bare idea of such an incident occurring in real life. Yet there was full warrant for it all, and, strange to say, the idea came from Australia to the popular author. The original of Miss Havisham resided in a big old-fashioned house on the Kettle estate at Newtown, a Sydney suburb. Disappointed on the day on which she was to have been married, just at the hour when she was dressed for the bridal ceremony, she remained a voluntary prisoner in her own room, with all the wedding finery scattered about her, until death claimed her as his own. An Australian in England, meeting Dickens, told the story—hence the creation of his strange character, Miss Havisham."

JOHN PLUMMER.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.

HIRAM POWER'S GREEK SLAVE*

By CHARLES DICKENS

THEY say Ideal Beauty cannot enter
The house of anguish. On the threshold stands
This alien Image with the shackled hands,
Called the Greek Slave: as if the artist meant her
(The passionless perfection which he lent her,
Shadowed, not darkened, where the sill expands)
To, so, confront man's crimes in different lands,
With man's ideal sense. Pierce to the centre
Art's fiery finger! and break up ere long
The serfdom of this world. Appeal, fair stone,
From God's pure heights of beauty, against man's wrong!
Catch up, in thy divine face, not alone
East griefs, but west, and strike and shame the strong,
By thunders of white silence, overthrown.

SOME ORIGINAL STUDIES BY "PHIZ"

A VALUABLE collection of pencil studies by Hablôt K. Browne for the numerous books he illustrated has been acquired by Mr. Walter T. Spencer, of New Oxford Street, W. These comprise sketches for the works of Lever, Ainsworth, Dickens, and others. It is a remarkable series in many ways, and worthy of preservation in one of our national collections. Phiz has been accused from time to time, by those critics who do not appreciate his work, of being careless in his composition, oblivious to perspective, and a caricaturist simply. A glance at these studies would show how absolutely erroneous the statements are, at any rate so far as his original drawings are concerned. His pictures may have suffered occasionally in these respects in the process of engraving, but no one will say that he had not the true artistic feeling, and the ability of giving expression to that feeling, who could have the opportunity of seeing these charming studies.

We do not propose dealing with them as a whole or individually here except so far as regards those which belong to his inseparable connexion with Dickens. We hope that Mr. Spencer will feel inclined to make a public exhibition of them some time for all admirers to examine and enjoy. If he does, all who appreciate the great Victorian artist will owe him a debt of gratitude.

There are unfortunately only a few studies for the works of Dickens, and Mr. Spencer has generously placed them at our disposal for reproduction in *The Dickensian*, and we hope to publish them at intervals during the next few months.

As a frontispiece to the present number we give two characteristic studies for *Little Dorrit*, which we are bound to say lose somewhat in the process of reproduction. Having been drawn on brownish-tinted paper, the delicate shading is lost in a great measure. But otherwise it is a faithfully-reduced facsimile, and shows the soft effect of the original admirably, and reveals the real strength of the artist's work not observable in the etched pictures familiar to all. B. W. M.

* Identified and reprinted for the first time from *Household Words*, 26 October, 1850.

SOME NEW BOOKS FOR DICKENSIANS

IN *Personal Forces in Modern Literature*, by Arthur Rickett,* that of "the novelist" is devoted to the genius of Charles Dickens. The book is composed of a series of lectures of a pioneer character, and is concerned, as the author states, rather with the "personal equation" of the writers discussed than with the purely literary aspects of their work. Mr. Rickett divides his lecture on Dickens under headings of "The Humorist," "The Pictorial Artist," and "His Character Painting," and brings his own particular view to bear on the various obvious points in each. It is rationally done, and considering the space at his disposal, well done. He divides the characters of Dickens into two parts—the normal and the abnormal—and complains that his success is with the latter, and gives as the reason that Dickens did not concern himself with the spiritual side of men and women. Dickens was not a scientific student of character, he says; he was a shrewd observer of certain types. And yet the very characters this applies to are the very characters that have the real vitality which makes them live to-day. Could this be so if Dickens had not been a scientific student of character, and merely "an observer of certain types"? His types are creations, not copies.

Mr. Rickett's book forms good reading, not only regarding Dickens, but in all other directions. He deals in turn with "The Moralist," as exemplified in Newman and Martineau; "The Scientist," in Huxley; "The Poet," in Wordsworth and Keats; "The Vagabond," in Hazlitt and De Quincey. The volume has a bibliographical guide at the end, and should prove useful to students.

We have received a copy of a recent book which we think has some claims to mention in our pages. It is a book which we do not suppose even the most ardent collector would dignify with a place among his "ana," yet it is a book which no Dickensian would regret having read. It is entitled *The Comedy of Age*,† and is a novel by Desmond Coke. Its interest to Dickensians lies in the fact that its theme is one of the happiest and truest of the many happy and true sentiments which are to be found in Dickens's books—"Humanity is indeed a happy lot, when we can repeat ourselves in others, and still be as young as they." The story centres round an Oxford don—Radford—who is the embodiment of the popular idea of the university professor: elderly in years, old in spirit, entirely out of touch with youth and with the world; in short, a "fossil." Some "straight talk" from a friend of his undergraduate days works a change in him, arouses a desire in him to get more into touch with youth, and the development of the "fossil" into something human again is admirably shown.

Dickens is mentioned early and often in the book. In the "straight talk" to which we have referred, Radford's old friend remarks, "'I should like a law forcing every one to read Dickens, the apostle of sympathy.' . . . 'Dickens!' Radford almost roared. 'I knew it would come back to Dickens. Dickens, the apostle of sugar and water, the innovator of that ancient custom, Christmas, with its frosted robins! . . .'

* London: J. M. Dent and Co. † London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.

'Don't you care for Dickens then?' . . . 'Do I care for serials in the halfpenny press? Dickens, I allow, is a splendid serialist, to be read—as he wrote—in fits; but as literature——' Eadie and the Dean looked up. 'Have you got Radford on to Dickens?' asked the former. 'If so, you *have* touched the spot!'" So he is when we meet him, but his friend *has* touched the spot, and we leave him musing over a book by "the apostle of sympathy." It is scarcely our province in these pages to treat of the book from any other point of view; our only excuse for referring to it in *The Dickensian* is that we thought it possessed some interest to lovers of Dickens. Nevertheless, if these remarks should send any of our readers to the book, we are confident that we shall have earned their gratitude for sending them to a thoroughly readable novel.

There is an admirable little book just published giving the story of Dickens's life, entitled *The Tale of Charles Dickens*, by George Wells.* In a preface the author states that the narrative was first written in the form of a paper with no view to publication, but that at the request of many Rochester friends he was persuaded to issue it in a compact form. It is a concise sketch of the life of Dickens, and claims modestly to be told by a local man for local people. But we do not doubt it will have a wider field than that, for such a carefully and accurately compiled résumé will be welcomed on all hands.

DICKENS IN SOUTH AFRICA

MR. PERCY MERRIMAN'S note on "The Dramatic in Dickens," which appeared in the August number, writes one of our subscribers, prompts me to send *The Dickensian* a record of recent Dickens doings in Cape Town. Mr. William Haviland a few weeks ago occupied the boards of the Opera House with *Oliver Twist;* but an event of far greater interest, inasmuch as it was Dickens unadulterated, took place at the new City Hall on 16 August, when Mr. Edward Vincent gave a recital of *A Christmas Carol* before a huge audience. Mr. Vincent, not content with an admirable portrayal of the innumerable characters which crowd the delightful story of Scrooge's conversion, put under requisition the services of Mr. Caleb Keene (a name, by the way, suggestive of Dickens), who built and furnished on the platform of the hall an old-fashioned room, giving an air of reality to the reciter's surroundings. Moreover, an invisible choir discoursed sweet carols between the staves and in other appropriate parts; and while Mr. Vincent was drawing tears and sobs from the assembly at the death of Tiny Tim, Dr. Barrow-Dowling, the Municipal Director of Music, was softly improvising on that good old tune, "Hard Times," on the grand organ. Mr. Vincent's performance was full of variety and colour, and to the slightest of the characters he gave some touch of individuality, drawing the more important ones boldly and consistently throughout. It was not the first time Mr. Vincent had recited the *Carol* in South Africa, but the singularly happy conditions under which it was given and the marked ability of the reciter made it a very noteworthy occasion.

* Rochester: The Journal Co., Ltd.

Mr. Merriman has surely inadvertently omitted to mention the late Clifford Harrison with the names of those who have demonstrated the dramatic possibilities of Dickens?

A detailed report also reaches us of a very informative address on "Dickens and the Drama," delivered by Mr. W. Osborn, J.P., before the members of the Pickwick Club at Natal. Mr. Osborn dealt first with all the plays Dickens wrote from *The Strange Gentleman* downwards, and with the characters and their impersonators. He then in general terms spoke of Dickens as an orator, which afforded him further scope for making his address attractive and interesting.

AN EXAMINATION IN DICKENS'S WORKS

[This is the concluding set of questions for the competition. The latest date for receiving papers is 21 November. The result will be announced in our next issue.]

XI—GREAT EXPECTATIONS AND A TALE OF TWO CITIES

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

1. In what way was Pip once betrayed by one friend to another?
2. Quote name of the local butcher at Cooling.
3. What Shakespearean references here occur (not having regard to Mr. Wopsle's theatricals)?
4. Satis House—as occupied by Miss Havisham—was known by another name. What was it?
5. Joe Gargery, speaking of his wife, once characterized her by a single epithet. State particulars.
6. To whom was the name of a martial instrument of music derisively applied?
7. Give references to Australia and America respectively; also mention of a Belgian artist in metal.
8. What royal treasure was invested by Matthew Pocket, and what interest was realized thereby?
9. Furnish particulars of reference to Rochester Bridge.
10. By whom was "rigidity" and "liver" spoken of as by non-equivalent synonyms?

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

11. On what occasion did Charles Darnay visit the town in which, aforetime, his father-in-law had practised?
12. What travelling official wrongly emphasized a long word?
13. What things are coeval with our first ancestor?
14. In what circumstances did a professional gentleman use a big D and call Darnay "a scoundrel" to his face?
15. Who was regarded as Cinderella's godmother, and why?
16. How was Sydney Carton familiarly addressed by his employer?
17. What was the name of Darnay's mother's family?
18. Quote reference to familiar object-lesson, as used by the Great Teacher.
19. Furnish allusions to Izaak Walton, Ashantee, the Lord's Prayer, and Cathedral of Notre Dame.
20. What was a tradesman's opinion as to the principal duty of a mother? Also quote his reference to a well-known proverb.

RESULT OF COMPETITION X

X—LITTLE DORRIT AND OUR MUTUAL FRIEND—ANSWERS

1. The inmates of Hampton Court Palace—using "*the Pill-Box*," the general equipage provided (Bk. 2, Chap. 8).
2. Little Dorrit *loq.* "It seems hard that he should pay in life and money both." The first and last speck of prison atmosphere (Bk. 1, Chap. 35).
3. "*Rome is Rome, though it's never so Romely*" (Bk. 2, Chap. 9).

4. Mrs. General *loq.* "Anything . . . perfectly proper, placid and pleasant" (Bk. 2, Chap. 5).

5. Ghost in *Hamlet* (Bk. 2, Chap. 13), Chair of Banquo (Bk. 2, Chap. 25), Mahomet's Coffin (Bk. 1, Chap. 17), Magic Carpet (Bk. 2, Chap. 5), Upas Tree (Bk. 2, Chap. 27), Money of Robinson Crusoe (Bk. 1, Chap. 13).

6. *Martigny*, in Switzerland (Bk. 2, Chap. 3); afterwards referred to by Edward and Fanny (Bk. 2, Chap. 6), Mr. Sparkler (Bk. 2, Chap. 6), *at Venice*; by Mrs. Merdle *at Rome* (Bk. 2, Chap. 7); by Clenman in *Bleeding Heart Yard* (Bk. 2, Chap. 22).

7. By reason of the opportunities afforded for treating "*his mother in her own style*" (Bk. 2, Chap. 7).

8. *Mrs. Tickit* could not "dispense with the attendance of Dr. Buchan" (Bk. 1, Chap. 16).

9. Because "*the Courier* had not approved" (Bk. 2, Chap. 16).

10. Mr. Dorrit's *Castle in the Air*. Of "a much loftier altitude than the square towers of *Notre Dame*" (Bk. 2, Chap. 18).

11. "*Hawkinson*" (Bk. 4, Chap. 2).

12. When walking with her husband to Greenwich "these shoes are *a full size too large*" (Bk. 4, Chap. 5).

13. Forty-nine references in all were allowed by the examiners.

14. "Known to fame . . . under the less Britannic name of *Belisarius*" (Bk. 1, Chap. 15).

15. *George Sampson* in reference to an "under petticoat"—as mentioned by Miss Lavvy—"After all, you know ma'am, *we know it's there*" (Bk. 4, Chap. 16).

16. When visited by Eugene, in allusion to her "troublesome child": "*sharper than a serpent's tooth*" (Bk. 3, Chap. 10).

17. "*Jobbery Forest*—on the outskirts of the *Share Market*" (Bk. 2, Chap. 5).

18. Eugene Wrayburn, alluding to Headstone—"*Hope springs eternal in the* scholastic *breast*" (Bk. 3, Chap. 10).

19. The body of *George Radfoot* (Bk. 2, Chap. 13).

20. "His Christian name was *Thomas*" (Bk. 1, Chap. 15).

THE SIX LEADING COMPETITORS

Miss M. M. Fowler, 2253. Mrs. E. M. Hill, 2213. Miss W. M. Nash, 2194. Miss F. Innocent, 2114. Mr. W. J. Eady, 2081. Miss Maria Neidermann, 2060.

THE DICKENS FELLOWSHIP

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

NEEDLEWORK AND CHARITABLE GUILD

THE annual "Sale of Work" will be held on 5 December, 1906, at St. Bride's Institute, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, E.C. Will members kindly forward their gifts, during the last week in November, carefully packed and addressed to Miss E. M. Miniken, Hon. Sec., c/o Housekeeper, St. Bride's Trust, etc.? Tickets of admission will be ready shortly at the usual prices, one shilling for opening at 3 p.m., or sixpence admitting after 7 p.m., and may be obtained from the Guild Hon. Secretary or the Hon. General Secretary, at Headquarters, Whitcomb House.

"THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH," AT ST. BRIDE'S INSTITUTE.

IN aid of the Needlework and Charitable Guild, Mr. Percy Merriman and his friends gave a dramatic entertainment at St. Bride's Institute on 26 September.

The principal item on the programme was an adaptation of *The Cricket on the Hearth*, which was well and intelligently acted to the immense delight of a full hall.

Mr. Percy Merriman is to be congratulated on the little company he gathered round him. His own interpretation of the part of Caleb Plummer

was a revelation to those who have been wont to associate Mr. Merriman's name with such breezy parts as Sam Weller and Dick Swiveller. Mr. A. E. Brookes-Cross did well with the part of Gruff Tackleton, but Mr. Malcolm Brodie failed to make the most of John Peerybingle in his more dramatic moments, and a grand chance for a fine curtain at the end of Chirp two was lost. We must in justice, however, say that he gave a fine portrayal of the honest John in his domestic scenes with loving little Dot, played by Miss Amy Gwinnett in a manner which quite won the hearts of the audience. Not only did she look it, but she acted it well throughout, which is saying much when we come to consider the humour and the pathos with which the part abounds.

The audience were moved to roars of laughter over the antics of Tilly Slowboy, most excellently played by Miss Maggie Grieve, and were delighted with the charming little fairy Cricket of Miss Connie Bailey, who spoke her lines clearly and intelligently.

Altogether it was a pretty little domestic drama prettily acted. J. B.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

THERE was a large attendance at the opening meeting of the new session, when a paper on *David Copperfield* was read by Mr. George W. Davis. Mr. Davis read some of David's love affairs, which created much amusement. In conclusion, the speaker said that his affection for the novel was, and always had been, like that expressed by Dickens himself in his preface. An interesting discussion followed, in which Mrs. Yoxall, Mr. R. Taylor, Mr. Browning Bottin, Mr. Askew, and others joined. The chair was occupied by Mr. E. J. Timings.

BRIGHTON BRANCH

THE annual general meeting was held at Steine House, on 29 September. Mr. Henry Davey presided. The report and balance-sheet was submitted and approved, and the following officers were elected: Mr. Henry Davey, President; Messrs. H. Bristow, E. Inker, W. Adams, W. F. Fowler, F. J. Hansor, and the Rev. George Plumb. Mr. F. J. Gauntlett was elected Hon. Secretary in the place of Mr. Colin Covell resigned, and the following to serve on the Committee: Mesdames Pennifold, M. Russell, and M. Allison, Messrs. W. F. Fowler, W. Adams, W. Bartlett, R. Pennifold, and F. J. Hansor. Mrs. Pennifold was elected Hon. Secretary of the Needlework Guild.

The one hundred and sixty-five garments made by the ladies of the Needlework Guild for the afflicted and crippled children of Brighton were presented by the President of the Guild, Mrs. Maxwell Davies, on Friday, 12 October, 1906, at the York Place Schools. About seventy-eight Tiny Tims were present, and they were given a substantial tea supplied by the following ladies: Mesdames Maxwell Davies, Halsey, Russell-Davies, Bristow, Bartlett, Marshall, Leigh, and Botting, and Mrs. Pennifold, the energetic Hon. Secretary of the Guild. After tea, which was efficiently carried out by Miss Cogan, the head mistress, and her staff, Miss Russell-Davies much amused the children with a lively story, and a cinematograph exhibition brought the pleasant proceedings to a close.

BRIXTON BRANCH

THE annual meeting of this branch was held in the ladies' parlour of the Brixton Independent Church, on Monday, 1 October. Chairman, Mr. J. Skeen. The Treasurer's report showed a balance in hand, 35s. 9d., and was unanimously adopted. Officers and Committee were appointed for the ensuing year, viz.: Mr. W. Davenport, President; Mr. S. Marriott, Treasurer; and Mr. Robert Allbut, Secretary. The existing Committee were re-elected,

the name of Mrs. J. W. Coade being added thereto. Mr. Allbut made a statement in reference to the alteration of rules as adopted by the Fellowship in July, the annual meeting giving place to a conference to be held alternately in the provinces and in London. An excellent programme of engagements for the session 1906–7 was submitted for approval, which was agreed to. At the close of the meeting Mr. H. Grinyer gave a reading, being a short sketch of "Dickens's Life and Works," which was well received.

On Monday, 22 October, a meeting was held in the ladies' parlour of Brixton Independent Church. The chair was occupied by Mr. R. Allbut. A very interesting lecture on "Charles Dickens" was given by Mr. Sidney Marriott. The lecturer traced the influence of Dickens's early education in the rough school of life as evolving the man he afterwards became in talent, temperament, and character. Addresses apropos to the subject were afterwards given by the Chairman, Mr. J. Skeen, and Mr. J. S. Baines.

CHESTER (U.S.A.) BRANCH

THIS branch has grown so rapidly during the past session that it is found necessary to "move to larger premises." Miss O'Neil reports that "we have grown into quite a flourishing sapling," and that a new set of rules for the government of the branch has been drawn up. An Executive Committee has been appointed, and the new session has started in splendid form.

GRAVESEND AND DISTRICT BRANCH

THE second session of the Gravesend Branch was opened with a social evening at the Town Hall. His Worship the Mayor (President of the branch) received the members on their arrival, and also kindly provided light refreshment during the evening. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. H. A. Waldegrave) gave a brief résumé of the work of the last session, and also the proposed arrangements for the coming session. A very pleasant evening was afterwards spent in the enjoyment of a good programme of music and elocution.

HULL BRANCH

THE President, Mr. Mortimer Petty, B.A., gave the members of the above society a hearty welcome on the occasion of the opening meeting of their session on Friday. The President alluded to the excellent syllabus for the present session, comprising some of the author's most important works, also tableaux and recitals from Dickens. During the evening some excellent musical recitals were given and were much appreciated. At the close of a most enjoyable evening over twenty new members were enrolled, which brings the total to 140.

LIVERPOOL AND BIRKENHEAD BRANCH

THE inaugural gathering of the present session was held in the Free Public Library on 10 October. After an interesting inspection of many literary and artistic treasures, the meeting was presided over by Mr. Peter Cowell, Chief Librarian. Mr. Edgar Browne, F.R.C.S., gave a most instructive and humorous address, dwelling upon some of the distinctive personal and literary peculiarities and methods of Charles Dickens, and was deservedly accorded an enthusiastic vote of thanks. Refreshments were afterwards served, and altogether a very enjoyable and profitable evening was spent.

MELBOURNE BRANCH

THE second annual meeting of this branch was held on 3 September in the Austral Salon. The hall was crowded to its utmost capacity, a large number being unable to gain admission. The following officers were elected:

Patron, Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G.; President, Rev. E. Rorke, B.A.; Vice-Presidents, Mr. A. Pelham Du Soir, Mr. Frank Scrivenor, Mr. Fred W. Scrivenor, Mr. H. Gyles Turner, and Rev. Dr. Rentoul; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. H. Crowther; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. N. B. Newland; Committee, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Masters, Miss Crump, Miss Haig, Mr. W. J. Masters, Mr. H. Fookes, and Mr. H. M. Marks. After the business meeting a grand Dickensian character costume conversazione was held. An excellent and varied programme was contributed by Mrs. Forster, Miss Joseph, Miss Rorke, Miss Windas, Miss Green, Mr. E. Smith, Mr. A. P. Du Soir, Mr. W. A. Windas, and Mr. H. M. Marks. The success of the evening was the presentation of the quarrel scene between Sairy Gamp and Betsey Prig, impersonated in character by Mrs. Windas and Mrs. Harrison. A large number of unique and striking designs, illustrating well-known characters from Dickens, were displayed.

The branch enters upon its third year with encouraging prospects, and it is confidently expected that there will be a large accession of new members during the ensuing twelve months.

PORTSMOUTH BRANCH

THIS branch ended its season with a membership of 846, the highest record of any branch at any time, and is to be congratulated on its success. Among the many phases of the work done during the session mention must be made of that devoted to the welfare of the blind instituted by Mr. Percy Maggs, its first Hon. Secretary. Mr. de Wolff, the present Hon. Secretary, reports that a donation of £5 from Mr. G. T. Cunningham was expended in the purchase of books for the blind (the library is now located at the Dickens Museum, and is in the care of Mr. Cleminson, the curator), and on 21 June a very successful outing was given to some sixty blind folk at Horndean.

The Hon. Secretary has had the practical sympathy and help of Sir G. E. Couzens, Alderman A. L. Emanuel, Dr. C. Knott, and many of the leading citizens of the borough, and with a keen and hard-working Council the success of the coming session is confidently anticipated.

SHREWSBURY BRANCH

THE annual meeting of this branch was held in St. Alkmond's Parish Room on 12 October. Mr. W. Fricker, retiring President, was in the chair. The balance-sheet, which showed a good balance, was adopted. New rules for the government of the branch were adopted, amongst which was one that the subscription for ladies be 1s. 6d., and for gentlemen 2s. 6d. The chairman reported that the Committee had offered prizes for the best essays by children who had attended the outing, and that eighteen essays had been sent by St. Michael's Girls' School. Mr. W. L. Booth was elected President, and Mr. Joseph Jenks, who had done so much as Secretary in the past years for the branch, was elected Vice-President. Mr. J. Davies was re-elected Treasurer, and Mr. Wm. Fricker Secretary, in succession to Mr. Jenks.

SOUTHAMPTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH

THE opening meeting of the session took place on 15 October, when a highly successful entertainment was given to a crowded audience, the Kell Hall, London Road, being packed to its fullest capacity. An eloquent address was given by the President, Mr. J. R. Smith, J.P., on "The Aims and Teaching of Charles Dickens." Several excellent musical items were rendered by members. Mr. H. Walmsley Clark read a portion of *The Cricket on the Hearth*. This was followed by a sketch from *Nicholas Nickleby*, admirably sustained by eight characters. Several new members were received.

STOCKPORT BRANCH

THE annual meeting of the branch was held on 27 September, Mr. W. Hadfield, Vice-President, in the chair. The accounts were presented and passed. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mr. Edward Helm; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. W. J. G. Holt, W. Hadfield, W. Marsland, and J. Barrodale; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. W. Hatfield; Council, Miss Wild, Miss Downs, Mrs. Hatfield, Mrs. Dawson, Messrs. Wilkinson, Fletcher, Pilkington, Hopwood, Holland, Langton, and Ormesher.

The night of meeting for the coming session was fixed for the last Friday in each month. It was decided to give a public recital from Dickens's works, and hand the proceeds to the Poor Children's Outing Fund.

TORONTO (CANADA) BRANCH

THIS branch has had a most successful season. All the meetings have been well attended, and at the banquet more than one hundred sat down. With the proceeds of the recital by Professor Duxbury last season and the concert of 14 December, the branch was in a position at the first part of the year to send $100 to the Home for Incurable Children, for the establishment of a Dickens cot. This cot will be maintained by the branch, and we already have in hand a substantial amount for its support next year.

DIARY OF DICKENS MEETINGS

Nov. 2. Manchester Branch: Lantern-Lecture, "Charles Dickens and his Illustors," by Mr. Richard Bagot, at Portico Library, at 7.30.

,, 2. Hull Branch: Paper on *Sketches by Boz*, by Mr. W. Barry, at Albion Rooms, Percy Street, at 8.

,, 3. Cripplegate Theatre: Performance of "The House of Dombey," by the Dickens Fellowship Dramatic Club, at 8.

,, 3. Liverpool Branch: Whist Drive, at Edinburgh Café.

,, 8. Forest Gate Branch: Recital by Mr. John Toscenie, at Earlham Hall.

,, 8. Leeds Branch: Dickens and the Stage, by Mr. F. G. Jackson.

,, 13. Chesterfield Branch: Recital of *David Copperfield*, by Mr. Frank Speaight.

,, 14. Liverpool Branch: Recital, "A Night with English and American Authors," by William Bennett.

,, 16. Birmingham Branch: Meeting at Great Western Hotel, at 8.

,, 16. Hull Branch: "Dickens and his Birthplace," by Mr. R. J. Bowden, at Albion Rooms, Percy Street, at 8.

,, 19. Brixton Branch: Whist Drive, at Brixton Independent Church, at 8.

,, 19. Southampton Branch: Address by Mr. J. W. Harman, and a paper by the Rev. W. A. C. Chevalier.

,, 20. Sheffield Branch: Recital of *A Christmas Carol*, by Mr. Frank Speaight, at Montgomery Hall.

,, 22. Leeds Branch: Yorkshire Folk-lore, by Mr. J. Hornby.

,, 22. Forest Gate Branch: Concert at Barclay Hall.

,, 23. Blackheath Branch: Sale of Work and Social Evening at Lewisham Parish Church Hall, 4 to 11.

,, 28. Liverpool Branch: "Mrs. Gamp," and other papers.

,, 28. Rochester Branch: Recital by Mr. Frank Speaight of *A Tale of Two Cities*, at Castle Hall, at 8.

,, 30. Hull Branch: "Women Characters in Dickens," by Miss E. Watson, at Albion Rooms, Percy Street, at 8.

DICKENSIANA MONTH BY MONTH

BOOKS

Sketches by Boz, etc. etc., with 62 illustrations by Cruikshank and Phiz. 2 vols., Royal 8vo. Being Vols. I and II of the "National Edition" of the works of Dickens, to be completed in 40 vols., 10s. 6d. net each. Sold in sets only. London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.

The Comedy of Charles Dickens. A book of chapters and extracts from the works of Charles Dickens. By his daughter Kate (Mrs. Perugini). Demy 8vo, 6s. Chapman and Hall, Ltd.

The Old Inns of Old England. A picturesque account of the ancient and storied hostelries of our own country (containing chapters on "Pickwickian Inns" and "Dickensian Inns"). By Charles E. Harper. Illustrated. 2 vols., Demy 8vo, 42s. net. London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd.

A Christmas Carol and *The Cricket on the Hearth*, with illustrations in colour and line, and an introduction by George Alfred Williams. Crown 4to, $2.00. New York: The Baker and Taylor Co.

Mr. Pickwick's Christmas. (The Christmas scenes from *The Pickwick Papers.*) With illustrations in colour and line, and an introduction by George Alfred Williams. Crown 4to, $2.00. Same publishers.

Stories from Dickens. By J. Walker McSpadden. Illustrated. 2s. 6d. net. London: George Harrap and Co.

A Christmas Carol. A facsimile reproduction of the MS. of Dickens's Christmas book. 4to, cloth, 1s. net. London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.

The Tale of Charles Dickens. By George Wells. 6d. paper boards; 1s. cloth. Rochester: The Journal Co., Ltd.

MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

"Mr. Chesterton's Dickens." By Alfred Noyes. *Bookman*, October.

"Charles Dickens on Education." Letter from H. H. *Pall Mall Gazette*, 3 and 16 October.

"Dolly Varden," from a painting by W. P. Frith, R.A. Frontispiece to *London Magazine*, October.

"Charles Dickens's Schoolmaster." Correspondence. *British Weekly*, 27 September.

"The Purposes of Dickens." By Rowland Grey. VI, *Our Mutual Friend* and others. *Great Thoughts*, 22 September.

"Charles Dickens and Little Portland Street Chapel." Letter. *Inquirer*, 6 October; *Christian Life*, 13 October.

"Dickens and the Drama." *Natal Advertiser*, 30 August.

"Dickens's Teacher," "Charles Dickens and Temperance," and "Charles Dickens and Nonconformists." Letters. *British Weekly*, 4 and 20 October.

"The Dickens Conference." (The History of the Fellowship's foundation.) By J. W. T. Ley. *Manchester City News*, 6 October.

"Dickens and Yorkshire Schools." By Alfred F. Robbins. *Notes and Queries*, 29 September. Articles on, in *Yorkshire Weekly Post*, 6 October, *Aberdeen Free Press*, 5 October.

"Dickens and Thackeray in Edinburgh." *Scottish Review*, 27 September.

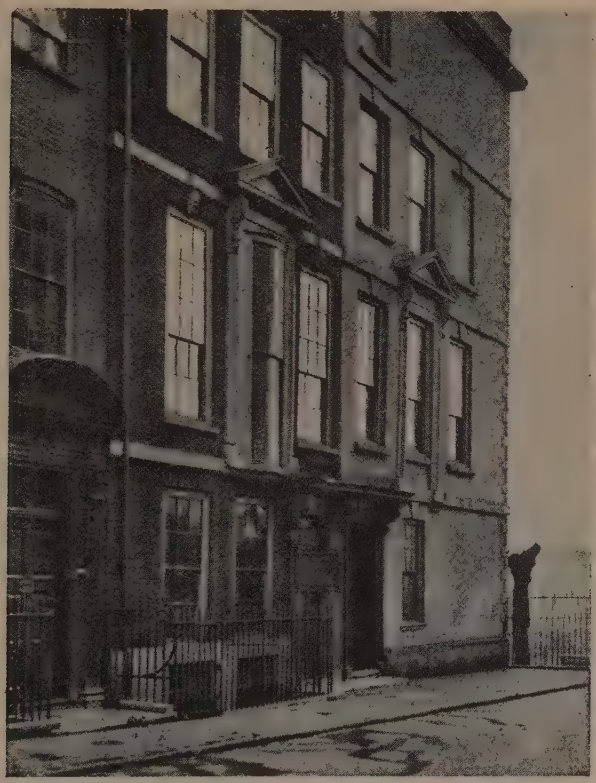
"The Hunt for Old Books: First Editions of Dickens." *The Daily Report*, 4 October.

"Demolishing Dickens's Westminster" (Smith Square), with photograph by J. B. Twycross. *Morning Leader*, 11 October.

"MRS. CRUPP'S HOUSE"

AN interesting Dickens landmark is about to be swept away: York House, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand. In this building Dickens took his first lodgings after leaving his father's house in Bentinck Street, where he had written his earlier *Sketches*. He was twenty-two years of age and was still on the *Morning Chronicle*. He remained here only a short time, removing to 13 Furnival's Inn about Christmas 1834.

The house is famous in other ways, Peter the Great at one time occupying rooms in it, as did Henry Fielding and William Black.



MRS. CRUPP'S HOUSE
From a photograph by T. W. Tyrrell

There is a greater sentiment, however, attached to the house from the fact that Dickens locates *David Copperfield* in the selfsame rooms he occupied himself with Mrs. Crupp as the landlady. The rooms were at the top of the house, says David in describing his temporary abode, and consisted of "a little half-blind entry where you could see hardly anything, a little stone-blind pantry where you could see nothing at all, a sitting-room, and a bedroom. The furniture was rather faded, but good enough for me; and sure enough, the river was outside the window."

Annual Report

OF THE

DICKENS FELLOWSHIP

For the year ended 31 October, 1906

President:
HENRY F. DICKENS, K.C.

Past President:
PERCY FITZGERALD, M.A., F.S.A.

Vice-Presidents:
THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON

MISS L. ALMA-TADEMA
MRS. HENRY F. DICKENS
MISS OLIVE DICKENS
MISS ELAINE DICKENS
MISS GEORGINA HOGARTH
MRS. KATE PERUGINI
ROBERT ALLBUT
SIR L. ALMA-TADEMA, O.M., R.A.
SIR WM. H. BAILEY
J. M. BARRIE
ARTHUR W. A'BECKETT
HAROLD BEGBIE
REV. CANON BENHAM
FRANCESCO BERGER
OSCAR BROWNING
G. B. BURGIN
SIR FRANCIS C. BURNAND
J. COMYNS CARR
G. K. CHESTERTON
W. WALTER CROTCH
EDMUND DICKENS
SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE
S. LUKE FILDES, R.A.
W. P. FRITH, R.A.
HARRY FURNISS
TOM GALLON
HAMMOND HALL
JOHN HARE
J. MARTIN HARVEY
REV. E. HUSBAND
RT. HON. LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD
COULSON KERNAHAN
REV. W. HOOK LONGSDON
CHARLES MATHEWS, K.C.
ARTHUR MORRISON
J. C. PARKINSON
C. E. PERUGINI
MARCUS STONE, R.A.
M. H. SPEILMANN
ALGERNON C. SWINBURNE
W. MOY THOMAS
H. BEERBOHM TREE
REV. RUSSELL WAKEFIELD
J. CUMING WALTERS
H. SNOWDEN WARD
THEODORE WATTS-DUNTON
ARTHUR WAUGH
BRANSBY WILLIAMS

Hon. Librarian: W. MILLER

Hon. Sec. of the Needlework and Charitable Guild:
MISS EMILIE M. MINIKEN

Hon. Secretary Dramatic Club: WALTER DEXTER

Hon. Treasurer: B. W. MATZ

Hon. General Secretary: J. W. T. LEY

Headquarters:
WHITCOMB HOUSE, WHITCOMB STREET, LONDON, W.C.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1905–6.

DEAR SIR (OR MADAM),

I have pleasure in submitting to you, on behalf of the Council, the Fourth Annual Report of the Fellowship, and in being able to say that the year has on the whole been one of steady progress, and that our Society has undoubtedly firmly established itself as a serious and influential organization, commanding and receiving recognition.

MEMBERSHIP.

There has again been a large increase in our membership—not so large as in the previous year, but still satisfactory and encouraging. The year 1904–5 ended in a paid-up membership of 4500; we now have 5002 members good on the books. The steady increase in our membership from the beginning will be seen from the following figures:—

1902–3	3464
1903–4	3573
1904–5	4500
1905–6	5002

BRANCHES.

It will be readily understood that this large increase in the membership is attributable almost entirely to the activity of the branches. We started the year with thirty-one branches; we end it with thirty-seven. This is a nominal increase of six, but actually seven new branches have been formed during the year. The Council found it necessary to close the Folkestone Branch early in the year. For a long time the management of the branch had been unsatisfactory, and in November the Council took action, and called a meeting of the members. A new Secretary was elected, but no improvement was shown, so it was decided to close the branch. The new branches are Adelaide (Australia), Cardiff, Chesterfield, Gravesend, Hull, Powerstock, and Sydenham, Forest Hill, and Penge. Some facts in reference to the branches are given on another page, but it may be said here that in practically every case good and useful work in the spirit of our Rules has been done.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Last year I was able to report that the ranks of our Vice-Presidents had not been thinned by death. I am in a far less happy position this year, for death has been busy, and has removed some of our most-valued Vice-Presidents. By the deaths of Lady Florence Dixie, Sir Henry Irving, Sir Wyke Bayliss, and Mr. J. L. Toole, the Fellowship suffered irreparable losses, for they were among our most-interested members, and no activity of ours ever failed to obtain their keenest sympathy. Among the new Vice-Presidents who have been elected during the year are Mr. W. Walter Crotch, one of the founders of the Fellowship, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Sir S. Luke Fildes, R.A., the illustrator of Dickens's last book, Mr. J. Martin Harvey, Mr. J. Cuming Walters, and Mr. Bransby Williams.

THE COUNCIL AND ITS WORK.

The following table shows the number of possible and actual attendances at Council Meetings during the year :—

	Possible Attendances.	Actual Attendances.
Miss Miniken	21	21
„ Neidermann	21	18
Mr. E. W. Brown	21	6
„ W. Dexter	21	18
„ F. J. Evans	21	9
„ W. J. Gadsden	21	8
„ E. P. Haslam	21	16
„ J. W. T. Ley	21	21
* Mr. Sidney Marriott	15	12
„ B. W. Matz	21	18
„ W. Miller	21	20
„ J. E. Palmer	21	16
„ T. W. Tyrrell	21	13
„ H. Snowden Ward	21	11

* Mr. Marriott ceased to be a member of the Council in July.

The following table will show the attendances of members representing branches on the Council :—

	Possible Attendances.	Actual Attendances.
Mrs. E. J. Hall (Blackheath)	20	8
Mr. W. Hatfield (Stockport)	20	0
„ G. Brand (Edinburgh)	20	0
* „ H. B. Button (Birmingham)	9	2
„ E. F. Cobb (Rochester)	21	2
„ F. Davis (Southampton)	1	1
„ R. W. Dodsworth (Sheffield)	21	0
„ R. Allbut (Brixton)	9	5
„ A. Humphreys (Manchester)	21	1
„ A. E. Hurdle (West London)	21	12
* „ C. J. Jones (Birmingham)	12	0
„ T. Webb (Forest Gate)	20	11

* Mr. Jones resigned in June, and Mr. Button took his place.

It will be seen from these figures that the work of the Council has been heavy, no fewer than 9 special meetings having been held. It would be impossible to give any clear idea as to the nature of that work as a whole, but it will be readily understood that with two such important schemes as the National Dickens Library and the Fellowship Convalescent Home in hand, the Council has had its hands full. As the Fellowship grows, not only does the work of organization at headquarters increase, but contingencies must inevitably arise which could not have been foreseen in the early days of our existence, and alterations in the Rules have from time to time been found necessary. One of these contingencies, which our little band of founders could never have anticipated even in their most optimistic dreams, was the enormous growth of our branches, which have now become the main source of our vitality, whose collective membership constitutes four-fifths of the whole membership of the Fellowship. It was realized two years ago that the branches should be given some direct voice in the control of the Fellowship's affairs, and it will be remembered that a proviso was then inserted in the Rules by which every branch possess-

ing 100 members became entitled to direct representation on the Council. Last year the 100 was reduced to fifty, but it was soon realized that this representation could not in the majority of cases be anything more than nominal. The matter was very carefully considered by the Council, with the result that it was decided to recommend that this proviso should be abolished, whilst an Annual Movable Conference should be established in place of the Annual General Meeting. These recommendations were adopted at a Special General Meeting of the members, which was held in London in July, and the first Conference was held in Manchester on 27 October, under the presidency of Sir Wm. H. Bailey, President of the Manchester Branch. About fifty delegates were present from all parts of the country, and much important work was done. Most important of all were some alterations of rules. Those of most interest to members may be stated briefly, the substantial points being indicated by italics.

Rule 5 now reads as follows:—

That the Officers of the Fellowship shall be a President, Vice-Presidents (*not exceeding fifty in number*), an Honorary General Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, Editor of *The Dickensian*, an Honorary Librarian, and two Honorary Auditors, to be elected at the Annual Movable Conference. The Honorary General Secretary shall receive an honorarium *not exceeding* £80 per annum.

Rules 8 and 13 were deleted, and the following rule, to be called Rule 13, substituted:—

That the subscription to the Fellowship shall be not less than one shilling per annum, payable on or before 1 September in each year. Branches in the British Isles shall remit to headquarters the sum of threepence per member per annum. Foreign and Colonial branches shall remit not less than fourpence per member per annum. Membership shall entail no further financial responsibility.

A clause was inserted in Rule 9 providing that in *future the Annual Report shall be issued as a supplement to the November issue of "The Dickensian,"* as in the present instance.

Rule 3 was slightly altered *to give to branches the power to exclude from membership or to expel any persons whom they may have reason to believe to be undesirable.*

The financial year of the Fellowship was fixed as from *1 September to 31 August in future instead of as from 1 November to 31 October as hitherto.*

At this Conference branches were represented by delegates in the ratio of one for every fifty or part of fifty members, but this rule was altered so that in future branches will be entitled to representation in the proportion of *one delegate for every twenty-five or part of twenty-five members.*

Mr. Henry F. Dickens was re-elected President. All the Vice-Presidents were re-elected, Sir Wm. Bailey, Mr. Robert Allbut, and Mr. G. K. Chesterton being added to their number. Mr. B. W. Matz was elected Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. W. Miller re-elected Hon. Librarian.

Following the Conference, a very largely attended dinner was held under the presidency of Sir Wm. Bailey, and was a most gratifying success. A full report will appear in the December issue of *The Dickensian.*

"THE DICKENSIAN."

In the last Annual Report I was able to report that our little green-covered magazine had been launched and had floated bravely. It had then only completed nine months of its existence, so that it was impossible to give actual figures. On another page of this report, however, will be found a brief statement of "The Dickensian's" finances, and it will be seen that the figures are entirely satisfactory. And yet it must be frankly admitted that the satisfaction is not undiluted, for though the magazine was greeted with enthusiasm by the Press all over the country, and though its first twelve issues realized a profit of more than £70, it has to be admitted that it is not indebted to any considerable extent to our own members for its success. This is not a pleasing fact, but it is a fact nevertheless. However, "The Dickensian" has come to stay, and this year it continues to thrive. To Mr. B. W. Matz, its able Editor, the Council and the Fellowship as a whole are very greatly indebted for the success which our monthly magazine has achieved.

NATIONAL DICKENS LIBRARY FUND.

At the end of this report will be found a statement regarding this fund. It is a matter for genuine regret that the figures are not better, but the fact cannot be lost sight of that our members have not assisted the fund to anything like the extent that might have been reasonably expected. May I, on behalf of the Council, urge all our members to interest themselves in the scheme? It must follow that the fund cannot be kept open for an indefinite period, and it would not redound to the lasting credit of the Fellowship if failure in such an important scheme as this should have to be admitted. For the information of new members it may be briefly stated that it is proposed to purchase the unique collection of "Dickensiana" left by the late Mr. F. G. Kitton, one of the founders of the Fellowship, and one of the best friends our organization has ever had. The collection comprises some three hundred books on Dickens and his works, the majority of these being autograph copies; over two hundred different portraits of the novelist; numerous volumes of magazine and newspaper articles relating to Dickens; pictures, programmes, play-bills, etc.; autograph letters from famous admirers of the novelist; several plays based upon the novels; original reports of speeches by Dickens; numerous pamphlets, etc. etc. There is also a splendid collection of original Dickens drawings by such well-known artists as Brock, Leslie Ward, Rainey, and others, as well as many drawings by the late Mr. Kitton himself (including most of the originals of his illustrations to "A Week's Tramp in Dickens Land"). It is unnecessary to say that many of the articles in the collection are unique and not possible of duplication. If the necessary money is obtained the collection will form the nucleus of a National Dickens Library, and will be housed in the Guildhall of the City of London.

FELLOWSHIP CONVALESCENT HOME FUND.

As many of our members will know, our President, at the Birthday Anniversary celebration last February, announced an important new scheme, which may be outlined as follows:—

For the last three years the Fellowship has raised funds during the

winter which enabled the Council to give dinners to children in the poorer districts of London. In this way about 7000 children have been fed, whilst similar work has been done by many of the Fellowship's branches. The Committee who have had charge of this fund have watched the results effected carefully, and have come to the conclusion that it is desirable in the best interests of the children that the relief afforded should be of a character to confer permanent benefit upon the recipients. It is common knowledge that children in the poorer districts who have sufficiently recovered from serious illnesses to be pronounced "cured," are still, though technically sufficiently recovered to be discharged from hospital, not in a fit state of health to return to their wretched lives in the slums. There can be no doubt that if more of such children could be sent to a Convalescent Home at the seaside or in the country for a short time, where they could enjoy good nourishing food and fresh air, not only would many young lives be saved, but the children would be enabled to return to their homes better fitted to battle with the hardships of their daily existence. Having had this suggestion before them, the Council of the Fellowship have considered it advisable to start such a home, provided the necessary funds can be obtained. The amount required for the first year is, roughly, £1000, and after that about £500 a year. The proposed accommodation is for at least five boys and five girls, and no restrictions whatever will be placed on the social condition or religion of the children. It is hoped, of course, that with increased contributions the suggested accommodation will be greatly increased.

Lord James of Hereford, Canon Benham, and Mr. Henry F. Dickens, K.C., are Trustees of the Fund, whilst Alderman Sir Wm. P. Treloar is the Hon. Treasurer.

It will be seen from the statement at the end of this report that a considerable response has been made to the Council's and Trustees' appeal, and it is to be hoped that our members will heartily support such a thoroughly Dickensian scheme.

NEEDLEWORK AND CHARITABLE GUILD.

The philanthropic work of the Guild shows a steady increase during the past year, in spite of the fact that its income has been little more than half that of the previous twelve months. In a brief review the "Old Folks' Tea and Entertainment" at Stamford Hill, in April, heads the list. The Guild entertained one hundred and thirty guests, many of them blind, lame, and suffering. More recently the Guild assisted in providing a tea on Tooting Common for one hundred poor children from the Borough slums, connected with the "Browning Settlement." Throughout the year supplies of clothing have been distributed in Battersea, Bayswater, Bethnal Green, Chelsea, Fulham, Wandsworth, Holloway, Poplar, and Norwood. Books and magazines have found their way to hospitals, institutions, and lighthouses; toys to the little ones, free meal tickets to the starving, letters for hospitals and the "Surgical Aid Society" to the sick and suffering, and monetary assistance to many in sad distress. "Yet all this is but a drop in the flood of wretchedness by which we are surrounded," writes Miss Miniken, "and we would earnestly ask our friends for warmer support in fighting our cause in the ensuing year."

HEADQUARTERS PROGRAMME, 1905-6.

The following meetings, etc., were held during the year, and were generally successful :—

11 *October.*—Annual General Meeting. Mr. J. Comyns Carr in the chair.

1 *November.*—Lecture by Mr. W. Teignmouth Shore. Chairman, Mr. Arthur Waugh.

7 *December.*—Recital of "A Christmas Carol," by Mr. Frank Speaight. Chairman, Mr. Arthur Waugh. At this meeting a collection on behalf of the Charitable Fund of the Fellowship realized £11.

3 *January.*—Dance.

8 *February.*—Dickens Birthday Celebration. The President, Mr. Henry F. Dickens, K.C., in the chair, supported by several Vice-Presidents.

The President delivered his annual presidential address, and addresses were given by the Rev. W. Hook Longsdon, Mr. H. Snowden Ward, and others.

23 *February.*—Dance.

3 *March.*—Complimentary dinner to Mr. Frank Speaight, previous to his departure for America, Mr. Arthur Waugh in the chair.

7 *March.*—Lecture by Mr. J. Cuming Walters on "Dickens as a Mystery-maker: with special reference to 'Edwin Drood.'" Mr. S. Luke Fildes, R.A., in the chair. Among those who took part in the discussion that followed the lecture were Mr. G. K. Chesterton, Mr. H. Smetham, Mr. Henry Davey, and others.

4 *April.*—Concert Recital. Mr. J. Cuming Walters in the chair. At this meeting Mr. Bransby Williams gave several recitals, and other members and friends contributed to the evening's enjoyment.

9 *June.*—Trip to Bath. About forty members and friends made the journey, and under the guidance of Mr. T. Sturge Cotterell, J.P., a thoroughly pleasant day was spent.

No programme has been arranged for the ensuing season, excepting the usual Birthday Celebration in February. Particulars as to this and any other meetings that may be arranged will be given in due course in "The Dickensian" and in "Great Thoughts."

THE FELLOWSHIP LIBRARY.

The Hon. Librarian reports that in consequence of his appeal in the last Annual Report there has been a large increase in the number of books, etc., presented to the Library during the year. Nevertheless, he regrets that he does not receive more newspaper and magazine articles for inclusion in the annual scrap-book. Four of these volumes have been completed, forming an excellent history of the Fellowship and its branches. Among the gifts which Mr. Miller wishes to acknowledge are the following :—A complete set of the "Dickens Fellowship" Edition of the Works of Charles Dickens, in twenty-one volumes, presented by Messrs. Chapman & Hall; "Clues to Dickens's 'Mystery of Edwin Drood,'" Mr. B. W. Matz; "The Cricket on the Hearth," "Charles Dickens as I knew him," "The Dickens Memento," and

numerous cuttings, Mr. Charles Burton; "Dickens," Mr. W. Teignmouth Shore; "Darwin, Carlyle, and Dickens," Mr. H. N. Simmonds; "History of the Pickwick Bicycle Club," Mr. Walter Churcher; "Christmas Stories," Mr. W. M. Griffiths; "Men of Letters Honestly Criticised," and "About England with Dickens," Mr. W. M. Stamford.

CONCERTS TO THE POOR AND SICK.

We had only one application to give concerts during the last season, and that one was duly given on Thursday evening, 15 March, at St. John's Hall, Chant Square, Stratford, E., and was most successful, the items in the programme being repeatedly encored by a most appreciative audience. All the artists gave their services gratuitously.

THE DRAMATIC CLUB.

Since our last report the Dramatic Club has been fairly launched, and is now entering upon its second season. The first performance, given in December, consisted of a short comedy by Miss I. M. Pagan, entitled "The Gentleman in the Next House," adapted from "Nicholas Nickleby," followed by the inimitable trial scene from "Pickwick." Both pieces were enthusiastically received. In May "The Old Curiosity Shop" was given to a crowded house, and arrangements are now in hand to produce "The House of Dombey" in November, to be followed in all probability by a new adaptation of "Martin Chuzzlewit" in March, 1907. The Club, although only in its second year, is already attracting attention in the Press and elsewhere, and invitations have been received to give performances in different parts of London and the suburbs in aid of charity. The death of Mr. J. L. Toole has deprived the Club of its President and a very earnest well-wisher. He is succeeded by Mr. Beerbohm Tree, who most generously lent the costumes for the first performance, and who has again most kindly intimated his willingness to do whatever lies in his power to promote the welfare of the Club.

J. W. T. LEY,
Hon. Gen. Sec.

DICKENS FELLOWSHIP CONVALESCENT HOME FUND.

Cash Statement.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	**Expenditure.**	£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions and Donations received	138	11	1	By Printing and Account Books	5	6	0
,, Bank Interest on Deposit Account	0	15	8	,, Book of Cheques	0	10	0
				,, Circular Letters	0	17	6
				,, Postages	2	8	1
				,, Petty Expenses	0	17	3½
				,, Cash in Bank	128	10	9
				,, Cash in hand	0	17	1½
	£139	6	9		£139	6	9

NOTE.—In addition to the amount already received as above, various sums to the extent of £70. 1s. have been promised, making a total of £209. 7s. 9d. promised and received.

Audited and found correct.

(Signed) W. A. BAWDEN, *Chartered Accountant.*

314 *Clement's Inn, Strand, W.C., 15 September*, 1906.

SOME FACTS RELATING TO THE BRANCHES OF THE FELLOWSHIP.

Name of Branch.	Date of Inauguration.	No. of Members.
Adelaide (South Australia)	——	——
Benalla (Victoria, Australia)	Dec., 1904	48 ; increase 5
Birmingham and District	20 Nov., 1903	210 ; increase 105
Blackheath, Lee, and Lewisham	12 Jan., 1903	145 ; decrease, 81
Brighton	12 Dec., 1903	104 ; increase 1
Bristol and Clifton Dickens Society (affiliated)	April, 1902	102 ; increase 35
Brixton	30 March, 1903	60 ; decrease 32
Cardiff	19 Feb., 1906	——
Chester (U.S.A.)	4 Jan., 1904	44 ; decrease 6
Chesterfield	26 Oct., 1905	26
Edinburgh and Leith	Jan., 1903	59 ; increase 10
Elsternwick (Victoria, Australia)	April, 1905	22 ; decrease 4
Forest Gate and District	25 Jan , 1905	87 ; increase 17
Gravesend and District	1 Feb., 1906	84
Hastings and St. Leonards	20 Oct., 1903	197 ; increase 46
Hull	19 Oct., 1905	115
Leeds	4 April, 1903	78 ; increase 9
Liverpool	28 Jan., 1903	141 ; decrease 44
Maidstone	5 March, 1903	58 ; decrease 17
Manchester	27 Jan., 1903	131 ; increase 31
Manhattan (New York, U.S.A.)	4 April, 1903	34 ; decrease 49
Marshall (Michigan, U.S.A.)	Oct., 1903	6
Melbourne (Australia)	Aug., 1904	191 ; decrease 197
New York	1 April, 1905	76 ; decrease 20
Nottingham	March, 1904	78 ; increase 48
Portsmouth	11 Feb., 1903	846 ; increase 35
Powerstock (Dorset)	6 Nov., 1905	63
Rochester	26 May, 1903	89 ; decrease 45 *
Sheffield and District	22 April, 1904	553 ; increase 109
Shrewsbury	12 Oct., 1903	89 ; increase, 29
Southampton	7 Oct., 1904	136 ; increase 16
Stockport	14 Feb., 1903	60 ; no change
Sydenham, Forest Hill, and Penge	7 Feb., 1906	9
Toronto (Canada)	9 May, 1905	210 ; increase 10
West London Suburban	10 Nov., 1903	81 ; decrease 54
Winnipeg (Canada)	3 Oct., 1904	43 ; increase 9
York and District	Nov., 1902	82 ; decrease 8

NOTE.—A complete list of names and addresses of Branch Secretaries appears monthly in *The Dickensian.*

* There are 70 subscriptions outstanding.

THE DICKENS FELLOWSHIP.

GENERAL FUND. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.

From 1 September, 1905, to 27 October, 1906.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
By Balance, 1 September, 1905	33	15	2
,, Members' Subscriptions	91	18	4
,, Branch Members' Subscriptions, less amount retained by Branches	70	2	7
,, Sale of Tickets for:—			
Meetings, etc.	12	17	11
First Dance	7	13	0
Second Dance	9	6	0
Branch Secretaries' Dinner	9	17	8
Speaight Dinner	12	5	0
Bath Excursion	17	16	6
,, Sale of Badges, Pendants, etc.	5	12	9
Publications, Catalogues, etc.	7	17	2½
,, Profit on *Dickensian* for twelve months ended 31 Dec. 1905	70	2	11
,, Stock of Badges, Publications, etc.	36	14	6
	£385	19	6½

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Office and General Expenses:—			
,, Rent, Typewriting, etc.	45	0	6
,, Printing and Stationery	66	12	6
,, Secretary (special services, 1905)	7	7	0
,, Postages	33	16	10
,, Sundries	8	17	2
	161	14	0
,, Honorarium to Secretary (as per Rule)	80	0	0
,, Law Charges	16	0	0
,, Branch Delegates' Expenses	10	16	6
,, Memorial Hall, hire, etc.	33	16	3
,, Needlework and Charitable Guild, hire of room	1	10	0
,, First Dance Expenses	21	0	10
,, Second ,,	8	14	0
,, Branch Secretaries' Dinner Expenses	10	9	2
,, Speaight Dinner Expenses	9	15	0
,, Bath Excursion Expenses	17	6	9
,, Cost of Badges, Pendants, etc.	4	0	9
,, Cost of Publications, etc.	2	3	3
,, Balance down, being surplus on General Fund	8	13	0½
	£385	19	6½

NATIONAL DICKENS LIBRARY FUND.

Income and Expenditure Account to 29 September, 1906.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
By Subscriptions	48	15	1
	£48	15	1

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Expenditure, including stationery, binding, etc.	6	6	2
,, Postages	2	3	8
,, Balance (surplus)	40	5	3
	£48	15	1

NOTE.—In addition to the above, subscriptions to the amount of £14. 17s. have been promised, but not yet received.

CHARITABLE FUND.

From 1 September, 1905, to 29 September, 1906.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
By Balance, 1 September, 1905	2	14	5
,, Subscriptions, 1906	19	14	0
	£22	8	5

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Grants and Expenses	7	6	6
,, Balance (surplus, 29 September, 1906)	15	1	11
	£22	8	5

BALANCE SHEET.

27 October, 1906.

Cr.	£	s.	d.	Dr.	£	s.	d.
By sundry Debtors	55	19	11	To sundry Creditors	73	8	3
,, Stock on hand—Badges, Pendants, Publications, etc. (estimate)	36	14	6	,, Surplus at this date as under :—			
,, Pictures and Library at Headquarters (estimate)	15	0	0	General Fund 8 13 0½			
,, Cash :—				National Dickens Library Fund 40 5 3			
At Bankers' 28 15 11				Charitable Fund 15 1 11			
In hand 0 18 1½					64	0	2½
	29	14	0½				
	£137	8	5½		£137	8	5½

I have compared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts with the Books, Accounts, and Vouchers produced to me, and certify the same to be correct.

(Signed) W. A. BAWDEN, *Chartered Accountant,*
Honorary Auditor.

3 & 4 *Clement's Inn, Strand, London, W.C., 27 October,* 1906.

THE BALANCE SHEET OF "THE DICKENSIAN."

31 December 1905.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Sales of copies, volumes, cases, etc.	221	6	7	Printing and Blocks	224	5	8
Sundries	0	13	6	Stationery and Binding Cases	10	8	6
Advertisements	100	0	0	Postages	25	12	1
Stock in hand	14	10	0	Addressing Envelopes	2	14	2
				Sundries	3	6	9
				Balance	70	2	11
	£336	10	1		£336	10	1

We certify that the above Balance Sheet is correct. (Signed) E. P. HASLAM.
A. E. DUNNETT.

DICKENS FELLOWSHIP NEEDLEWORK GUILD.

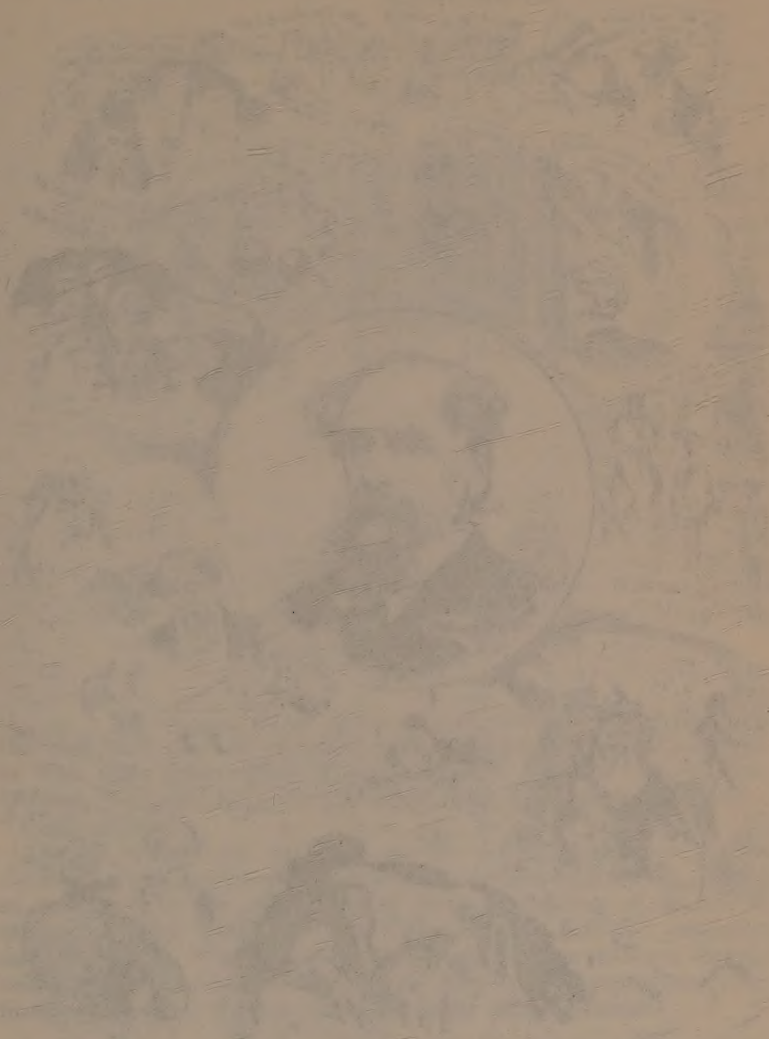
Cash Statement, 1905-6.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1904-5	2	3	4	By Donations	1	11	0
,, Rent from Headquarters	0	15	0	,, Cost of Old Folks' Tea	5	12	10½
,, Sale of Work	23	4	1	,, Tea to Poor Children	0	15	0
,, Article sold	0	1	0	,, Annual Sub. to S.A.S.	1	1	0
,, Donations and Collections	3	12	0	,, Expenses of Sale of Work	6	16	11
				,, Various Assistance	1	1	7½
				,, Carriage and Travelling	2	17	9
				,, Stationery and Sundries	2	4	6½
				,, Rent at St. Bride's	2	0	0
				,, Postages	2	2	5
				,, Balance in hand, 1 Sept.	3	12	3½
	£29	15	5		£29	15	5

Audited and found correct.

(Signed) W. A. BAWDEN, *Chartered Accountant.*

3 & 4 *Clement's Inn, Strand, W.C., 15 September,* 1906.



CHRISTMAS AND THE RISING GENERATION
CHRISTMAS AND THE VEGETARIAN
THE CHRISTMAS CAROL
CHRISTMAS A AWFUL ROT
THE CHIMES
THEY DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND US NOW
HE ALWAYS THINK OF THE POOR OLD PEOPLE AT CHRISTMAS
HE ALWAYS HAD A GOOD WORD FOR EVERYBODY
HOW HE DELIGHTED IN PUNCH AND PLUMS
AT CHRISTMAS WE ALWAYS THINK OF YOU AND HONOUR YOUR MEMORY

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRITY—CHARLES DICKENS.

From a drawing by Alfred Bryan in *Moonshine*, 29 December, 1888.